(b) when these criterion were laid down and whether these criterion are adequate enough to provide assistance to those affected;

(c) whether Government propose to amend the said criterion, to make them realistic;

(d) the details of recommendations made by the expert group to amend criterion for assistance; and

(e) by when Government intend to amend the prevalent criterion for assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI. S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) Financial assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) is provided to the States as per items and norms approved by the Government of India from time to time based on the recommendations of the Expert Group. It has been generally a practice to review and revise the items and norms of assistance from CRF/NCCF after the Award of the Finance Commission is accepted by the Government. The last such revision was made in August, 2001, after the acceptance of the Award of 11th Finance Commission.

Subsequent to the acceptance of Award of 12th Finance Commission, an Expert Group was constituted by the Government of India consisting of representatives of Central Ministries and States to review and revise the extant items and norms of assistance from CRF/NCCF. The Expert Group has submitted its report. The proposal of Ministry of Home Affairs, formulated on the basis of the report of the Expert Group and in consultation with the Ministry of Finance as well as the National Disaster Management Authority, has been sent to the High Level Committee (HLC) for consideration and approval. The revised items and norms, as approved by the HLC will be notified and circulated to all the States.

1000 ft. TV tower in Amritsar

3752. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 1000 ft. high TV tower to be installed in Amritsar had been sanctioned in 2002, which would have made sure that Doordarshan programmes could be heard in and around Lahore; and

(b) what is the current status of this project and whether Government are aware that Lahore TV tower has been strengthened several times since then?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Scheme for Upgradation of 10 KW HPT at Amritsar to a 20 KW HPT with 300 M tower at a new site was approved in October, 1999, for expansion of DD coverage in the border areas of Punjab.

(b) Due to delay in availability of the new site and pending construction of 300 M tower at this site, 20 KW HPT was commissioned at the old site with antenna on the existing 100 M tower in May, 2002. Construction of transmitter building at new site has since been completed. Foundation work of 300 M tower has also been completed and erection of tower is to commence. As per present indications, 300 M tower is expected to be completed and commissioned during 2008. Government has no information about strengthening of TV tower several times at Lahore.

Scam in sale of UNI shares to ZEE Telefilms

3753. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received request to order an inquiry into the big scam relating to sale of UNI shares to ZEE Telefilms;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) United News of India (UNI) is a media company registered under the Companies Act, 1956. Its affairs are governed by the shareholders through their representatives on the Board of Directors. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting exercises no control over it.

Transmission of Punjabi programmes

3754. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been growing demand for relay and transmission of Punjabi programmes;